

**REMARKS**

Claims 16 and 18-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 16 and 30 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17 and some of the features of claim 18. Claims 18 and 19 are amended to depend from claim 16. Claim 23 is amended only for clarity. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 16, 17, 25, 27, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Reboux et al. (Reboux), U.S. Patent No. 4,300,031. The rejection of claim 17 is moot. The rejection of claims 16, 25, 27, 29 and 30 is respectfully traversed.

Reboux does not disclose or suggest that the secondary winding and the induction load provide a plurality of series resonance circuits with an output frequency corresponding to different frequencies outputted by the generator, as recited in independent claims 16 and 30.

Reboux discloses an inductor 10 that is connected to a secondary (low-impedance) winding 62 (see col. 7, lines 14-16 and Fig. 2). As seen in Fig. 2, the secondary winding 62 is connected directly to the inductor 10. Therefore, the secondary winding 62 and the inductor 10 do not provide the claimed plurality of series resonance circuits with an output frequency corresponding to different frequencies outputted by the generator. Furthermore, because Reboux does not provide the plurality of series resonance circuits on the side of the secondary winding but instead switches the frequency with a purely mechanical arrangement, i.e. the switch 73, the power is (instantaneously) turned off during the switching operation, thereby deteriorating operation efficiency. Therefore, claims 16 and 30 are patentable over Reboux.

Because claims 25, 27 and 29 incorporate the features of claim 16, these claims also are patentable over Reboux for at least this reason as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 16-18, 25, 27, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Horiuchi, U.S. Patent No. 4,886,952. The rejection of claim 17 is moot. The rejection of claims 16, 18, 25, 27, 29 and 30 is respectfully traversed.

Horiuchi does not disclose or suggest that the secondary winding and the induction load provide a plurality of series resonance circuits with an output frequency corresponding to different frequencies outputted by the generator, as recited in independent claims 16 and 30.

Horiuchi discloses a secondary winding 5 that is directly connected to a heating coil 1 (see Fig. 1). Therefore, the secondary winding 5 and heating coil 1 in Horiuchi do not provide a plurality of series resonance circuits with an output frequency corresponding to different frequencies outputted by a generator, as recited in independent claims 16 and 30. Similarly to Reboux, Horiuchi also employs the switch 6 provided on the side of the primary winding, where the same deterioration in operation efficiency due to power turn-off during the switching operation applies. Thus, claims 16 and 30 are patentable over Horiuchi.

Because claims 18, 25, 27 and 29 incorporate the features of claim 16, these claims also are patentable over Horiuchi for at least this reason as well as for the additional features these claims recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 16, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nanba, JP-A-2002-367763. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges on page 5 that Nanba does not disclose or suggest a transformer that converts a plurality of load resonance impedance to substantially equal

oscillator output impedance, as now recited in independent claims 16 and 30. Thus, claims 16 and 30 are patentable over Nanba.

Because claim 29 incorporates the features of claim 16, this claim also is patentable over Nanba for at least this reason as well as for the additional features that claim 29 recites. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nanba in view of Reboux or Horiuchi. The rejection of claim 17 is moot. The rejection of claims 18 and 19 is respectfully traversed.

Because claims 18 and 19 incorporate the features of claim 16, and because Reboux and Horiuchi fail to overcome the deficiencies of Nanba with respect to claim 16, these claims also are patentable over the cited references.

For Example, the Office Action acknowledges that Nanba does not disclose the transformer recited in claims 18 and 19 but asserts that either Reboux or Horiuchi disclose such a feature. However, as discussed above, both Reboux and Horiuchi fail to disclose or suggest that the secondary winding and the induction load provide a plurality of series resonance circuits with an output frequency corresponding to different frequencies outputted by the generator, as recited in claim 16. Further, Nanba employs switches (30n) for the switching operation resulting in the same problem as Reboux and Horiuchi. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Nanba with either Reboux or Horiuchi to result in Applicants' claims 16, 18 or 19. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nanba in view of Nakamura, JP-A-2001-112268; rejects claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nanba in view of Yamanda, JP-A-2002-171766; and rejects claims 27 and 28 under 35

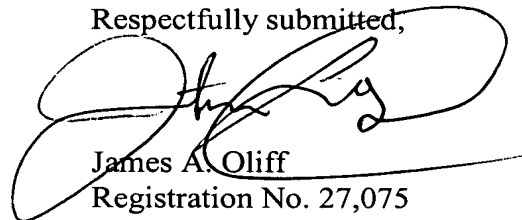
U.S.C. §103(a) over Nanba in view of Kudo, JP-A-11-262265. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Because claims 20-28 incorporate the features of claim 16, and because Nakamura, Yamada and Kudo fail to overcome the deficiencies of Nanba with respect to claim 16, these claims also are patentable over the cited references for at least this reason well as for the additional features that they recite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 16 and 18-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Justin T. Lingard  
Registration No. 61,276

JAO:JTL/amw

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 320850**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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